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Carlo Lippolis

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- 1 The excavations of the Turkmen-British International Merv Project between 1997-2003 focused their attention to the fortification walls of Gyaur Kala, revealing a complex sequence of building phases for the defences. In at least three main phases (Graeco-Bactrian period, early and middle Sasanian periods), the walls were substantially redesigned and the defensive system changed. The author traces a history of the previous excavations and follows the development of the city walls (with ten different phases of utilization), comparing the defensive system with other walls of Asia Minor and Central Asia. The importance of Gyaur Kala's fortification system lies in the fact that it shed light on the development of military technologies for Central Asia over a period of about thirteen centuries.

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**Thèmes** : 3.1. Est de l'Iran

## AUTEURS

**CARLO LIPPOLIS**

Università di Torino